

Mr. Speaker, the political games being played by the Republican leadership are causing serious harm to transportation safety for all Americans, and it is totally unacceptable. We do have a spending problem created by the two Republican wars.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, many of us were still stuck in Washington, waiting for a resolution, but one of the highlights was the opportunity to be with our veterans as we helped them to gain entrance to their national monuments, their memorials, here in Washington, D.C. It is just sad that they even have to wonder if they are breaking the law or need assistance to get into open air monuments and memorials that are theirs.

It is even sadder to hear the rhetoric on this floor today that all that would be boiled down and impugned to one guy at random bringing a flag that some people don't like.

Why don't we talk about those veterans and the great service they have made for this country and about the meanness of the Park Service's arbitrarily renting barriers to shut them out. Why aren't we talking about that as much? This shutdown situation is made much worse by the attitude of those in the White House—by exerting pain on people, by shutting down the things they do care about in order to play this political game.

So this isn't a Republican House shutdown. This is a U.S. Senate shutdown as we have sent, time after time, bill after bill over there. Let's get together and get this done right for the people in California, including for the students I met with from Lyman Gilmore Middle School, who are here with us today.

#### IMPACT OF SHUTDOWN ON EVERYDAY LIVES

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it pains me to see the shutdown's impact on everyday lives. While ordering coffee the other day, I asked Diona, the hardworking woman behind the counter, how she was doing that day. She confided that she had been up all night taking care of her 3-year-old son, who was suffering from stomach pains. She was exhausted. She wanted to buy the Lactaid milk that settles her boy's stomach, but because of the shutdown, her WIC office was not open. Her WIC card was out of money, and she was a long way from payday.

There are probably tens of thousands of Dionas out there—women working hard and worried about their kids and not sure how they will make ends

meet. The media may be focusing on the rancor, the talking points of politics, but this shutdown is really about a little boy with stomach pains and a mother who cannot afford to give him relief. The Women, Infants, and Children program helps low-income women buy formula and other healthy foods, and it is one of our most successful nutrition programs. It is just one of the shutdown's many casualties.

Let us end this shutdown right now. Let us vote on a clean bill to fund the whole government. Let us restore vital problems like WIC, and let us stop this lunacy and get back to work for the American people.

#### REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the Republican shutdown of government and their move to default on our debt are like forcing the wrong medicine on a sick patient—you might get them to take it, but it could kill them.

The only way America can pay back our Nation's debt is through economic growth and job creation, not bad medicine.

Let's not forget that we are still digging our way out from the Wall Street-induced Great Recession. Where did the \$17 trillion of national debt come from? The Wall Street recession cost American households \$19.2 trillion in lost wealth and the country 8.8 million jobs.

Under President Obama, we have had 42 consecutive months of job growth, leading to 7.5 million jobs being created, unlike in the Bush years when there wasn't a single job created. In fact, we lost over a half a million jobs. In the last 12 months of the Bush years, the country lost 4.6 million jobs. Let's not forget that America has accumulated an \$8.4 trillion trade deficit since 1975 and that we have racked up \$4 trillion in unpaid-for war spending.

So what is the Republican solution? Shut down the government. Don't pay the bills. The latest idea is to govern by supercommittee.

Mr. Speaker, we need to restore regular order, to move bills, to create jobs, and keep America's promises to our debtors. Let's nurse our Nation back to health, and stop continuing the economic pain with bad medicine.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired. Members are reminded to please heed the gavel.

#### RECKLESS GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN MUST END

(Mr. BARBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to come together. This reckless government shutdown must end.

Southern Arizonans and Americans all across our country are hurting, and our economy has been seriously harmed. The Senate is working on a bipartisan solution to reopen the government and to avoid putting America into default. I am very hopeful that we can find a reasonable and responsible plan and immediately bring it to the House floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, we must end this blame game. We must put the American people first. Let us come together and act responsibly now. Let this government shutdown end, and let us ensure that we pay our bills now. It is important, and the American people are calling on us to act, to act now.

#### END GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have again recklessly threatened America's future by allowing the Nation, already in a Republican shutdown, to default on its debt unless the Congress votes to stop ObamaCare. The government has been shut down for 2 weeks, and the United States will default on its debt in 2 days. All respected economists say a default means devastating and definitely unnecessary damage to our economy and to the global marketplace. Yet Republicans radically and irresponsibly push us toward the precipice of default. Their disconnect from financial reality is certainly breathtaking. Their actions are reckless, radical, and irresponsible.

Mr. Speaker, there is power in numbers. If reasonable Republicans would stand up to their radical right wing, we could end this shutdown and avoid a default today.

#### A LETTER FROM A CONSTITUENT

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, a recent letter I received:

I am writing this letter in regards to the new "affordable" healthcare. My husband and I are small business owners with two other employees. We purchase our insurance as individual insurance, and we received a letter this past week that our rates are changing. We currently have a \$5,000 deductible with a monthly premium of \$415, and on the new plan, if we stay with the current company, it is going to be \$4,000 with a monthly premium of \$1,093.78. I have tried to access the [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) Web site, and have been able to register an account but have not been able to get any type of pricing. I have contacted both of my Illinois Senators and my House Representative and have been told that they are not in favor of a government shutdown, but I am here to say if a shutdown is what it takes to get people to listen, then shut down. The reason I am contacting you is because my Congressmen are not willing to stand up to the President, and I just want to say good job for standing your ground.